

CLAIMS

We claim:

- 5 1. A purified protein having ELF3 protein biological activity, the amino acid sequence of which comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 13;
- (b) amino acid sequences that differ from SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 13 by one or more conservative amino acid substitutions; and
- 10 (c) amino acid sequences having at least 91% sequence identity to the sequences specified in (a) or (b).
2. The purified protein of claim 1, comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID
- 15 NO: 2.
3. The purified protein of claim 1, comprising an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 by one or more conservative amino acid substitutions.
- 20 4. The purified protein of claim 1, comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 91% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 2.
5. The purified protein of claim 4, comprising an amino acid sequence having at
- 25 least 93% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 2.
6. The purified protein of claim 5, comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 95% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 2.
- 30 7. The purified protein of claim 1, comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13.
8. The purified protein of claim 1, comprising an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 by one or more conservative amino acid
- 35 substitutions.
9. The purified protein of claim 1, comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 91% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 13.

10. The purified protein of claim 9, comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 93% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 13.

5 11. The purified protein of claim 10, comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 95% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 13.

12. The purified protein of claim 1 bound by an ELF3 protein specific binding agent.

10 13. The purified protein of claim 12, wherein the ELF3 protein specific binding agent comprises an anti-ELF3 protein antibody.

14. An isolated ELF3 protein, the amino acid sequence of which consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

15 15. An isolated ELF3 protein consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13.